

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are pending herein. Claims 2, 7 and 11-23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The subject matter of cancelled claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 3 has been amended depend from claim 1. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of original claim 1. The subject matter of cancelled claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 6. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 6. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of original claim 6.

1. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 and 7-10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form in compliance with §112, second paragraph. Although Applicants do not acquiesce to the art-based rejections discussed below, claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1, 4, 6 and 9, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 depend directly from claims 1, 4, 6 and 9, respectively, those claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under §103(a) over Hosono in view of Takeuchi. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claims 2 and 7, respectively. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

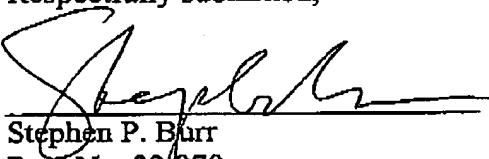
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt and consideration of the Identification of Copending Application filed herewith.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,


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